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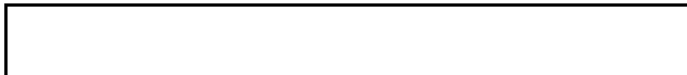
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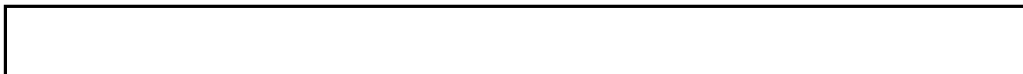
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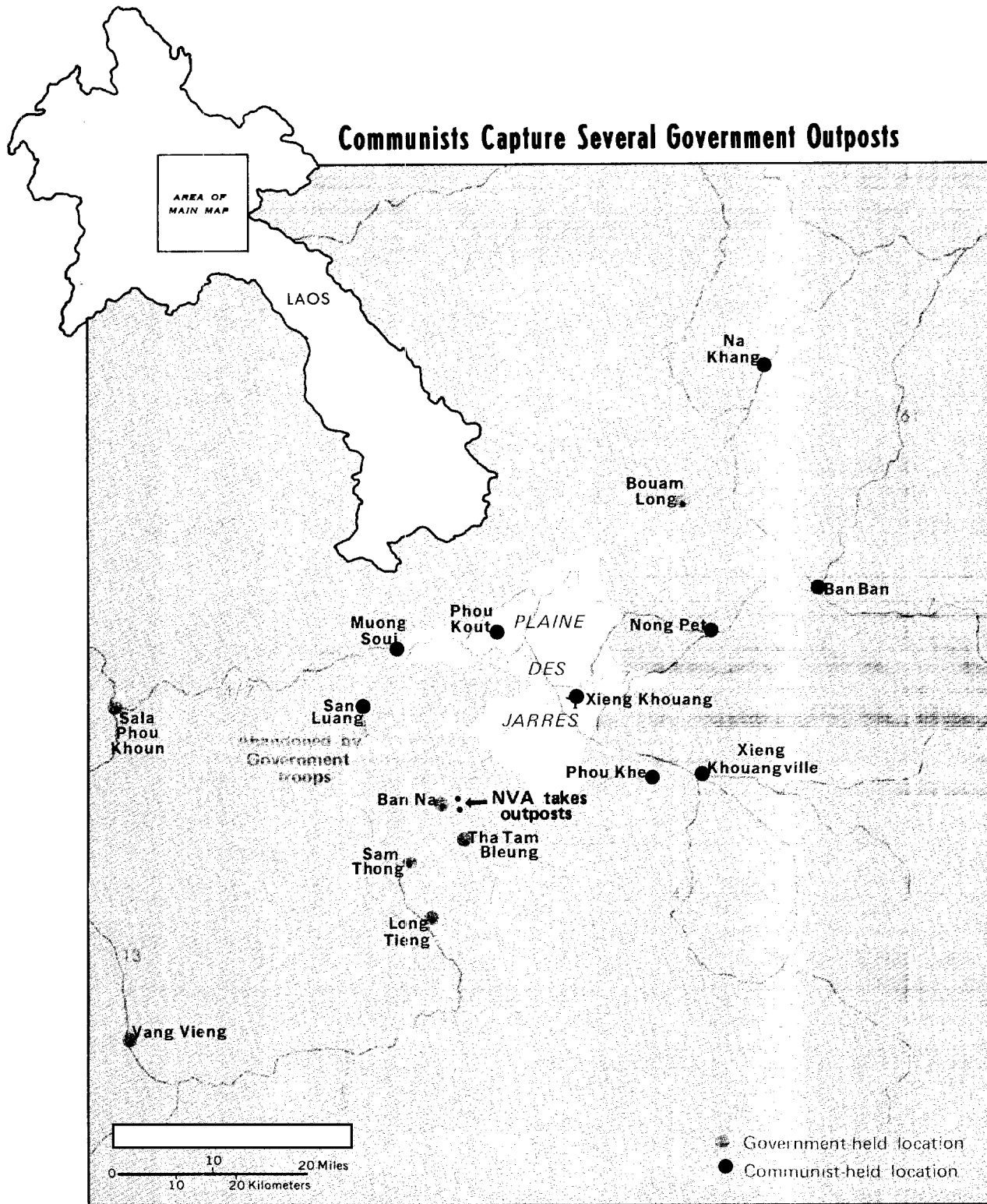
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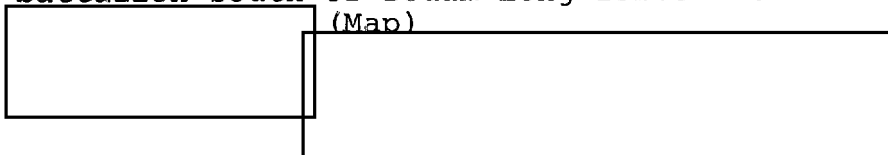
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Laos: The Communists have gained control of several outposts near the government's defensive line west and south of the Plaine des Jarres.

Four small government units in the San Luang area withdrew on 12 March after coming under fire. They were under instructions to move south of the Nam Ngum River at the first sign of Communist pressure. Farther south in the Ban Na sector, government troops have abandoned another small outpost, the second to fall to the Communists in this area recently.

Elsewhere, enemy pressure in the Bouam Long area northeast of the Plaine has eased somewhat. Sustained air strikes and artillery fire on an enemy battalion south of Bouam Long forced it to withdraw.

(Map)



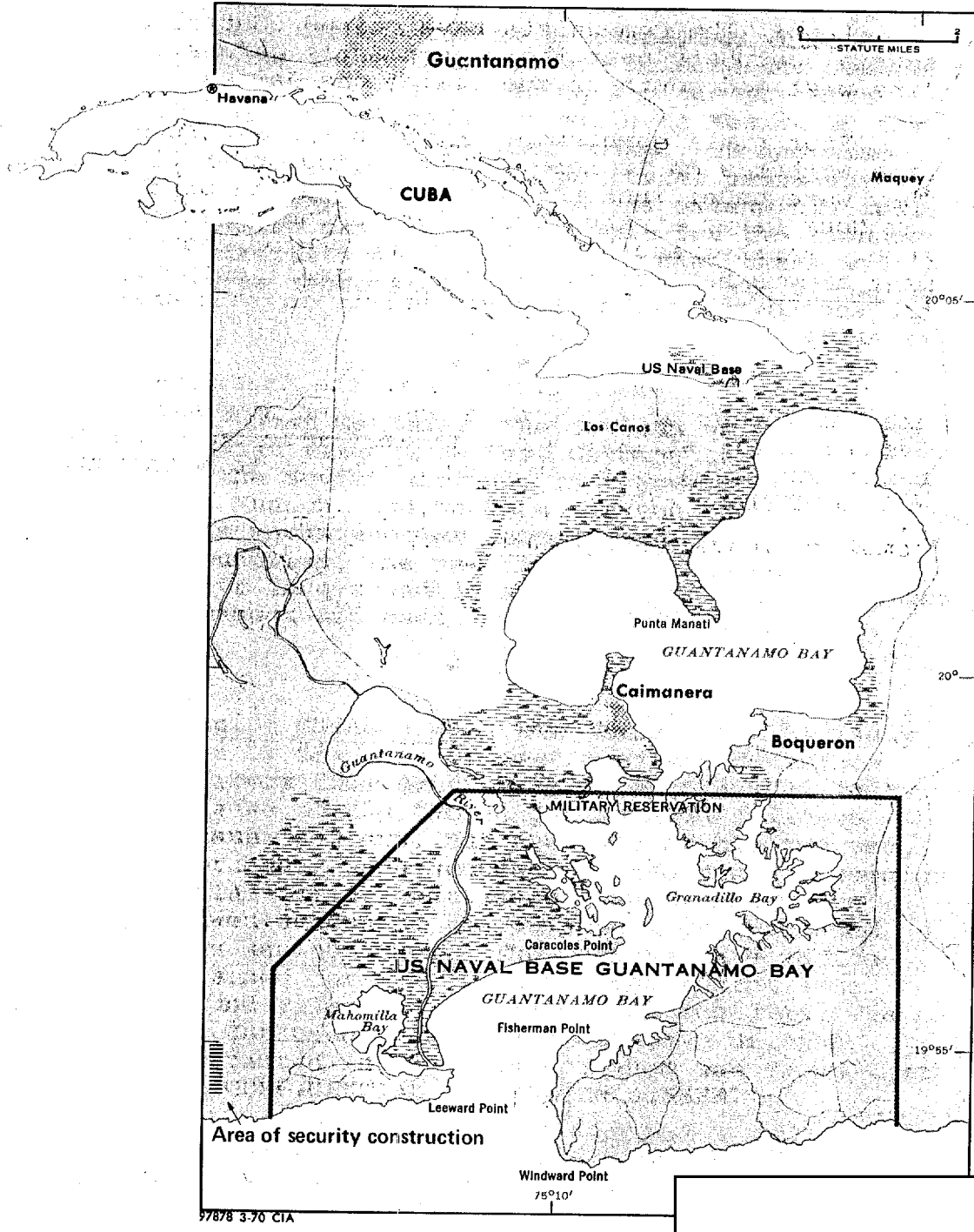
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Castro Regime Increases Security Around US Naval Base



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France-USSR: Paris, in an effort to maintain its rapidly growing trade with the Soviet Union, has agreed to extend long-term credits of up to \$800 million for the period 1970-74. The Soviets will use them to purchase French machinery and equipment as well as complete industrial plants. Repayable over seven to eight years, the credits will help fund the large Soviet trade deficits that probably will arise as the two countries seek to double their trade level by 1974. France was among the USSR's principal Western suppliers last year, with exports of some \$264 million. Its imports amounted to only \$200 million.

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Cuba: The regime appears to be moving to improve its security posture around the US naval base at Guantanamo, probably to halt both infiltrations and escapes. [redacted] new triple fences and other barriers have been constructed for a distance of about 2.5 miles parallel to the western perimeter of the base. [redacted] mine fields will be installed. In addition, the Cubans have increased their propaganda warning the populace not to attempt to enter the base. [redacted]

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(Map)

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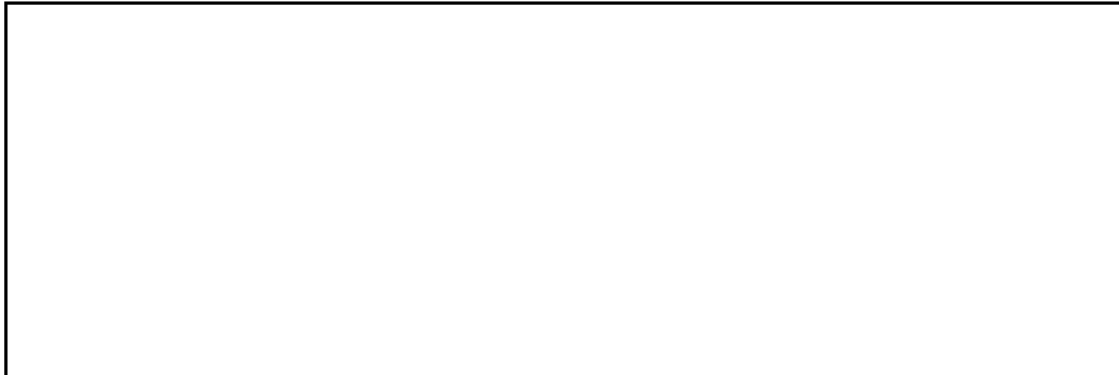
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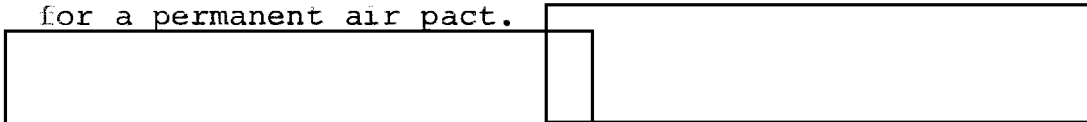
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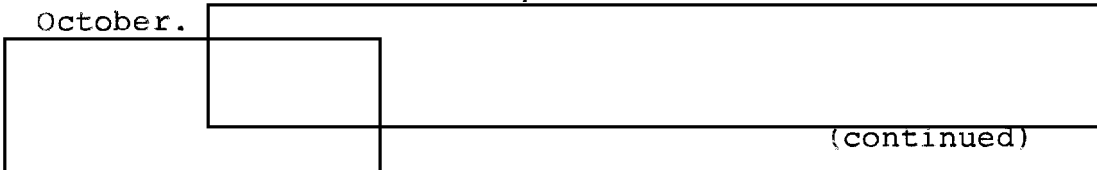
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USSR - West Germany: The Soviets will initiate weekly tourist flights to West Germany this month. Aeroflot, the Soviet airline, is scheduled to service Frankfurt, Munich, and Hamburg through the fall. Although this marks another step toward detente between the two countries, the new flights do not mean the end of their long-standing and continuing negotiations for a permanent air pact.



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Communist China - UK: The Chinese are unlikely to be moved by London's protest over the detention of two officers from British ships at Shanghai last week. Release of the two ships involved followed Peking's usual pattern, but the fate of the two men, who have probably been accused of "espionage," remains unclear. In similar past cases, the Chinese have never allowed access to the prisoners or discussed the charges against them. The Chinese have periodically detained foreign crewmen, imprisoning some for years and releasing others with a scolding. The last known European seamen held were two British officers arrested in 1968, one of whom was freed last October.



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Uganda: The conviction on Thursday of five of the six men charged with attempting to murder President Milton Obote last December has not completely dispelled the mystery surrounding the shooting. The five appear to be Baganda tribesmen, who have been hostile toward Obote since 1966 when he brutally crushed their rebellion, abolished their traditional kingdom, and forced their king into exile. Security officials have expressed doubt, however, that the five--none of whom had been politically active--were solely responsible for the attempted assassination. Further arrests are likely.



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